A NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF
BAT MAN
95¢
383
MAY 85
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
PARISI & DIC

BATMAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
JUST AS NIGHT FOLLOWS DAY...
SLINKING BACK TO HIS SHADOWED SANCTUM AFTER A VERY LONG NIGHT PATROL, THE BATMAN FEELS LIKE A CANDLE BURNT AT BOTH ENDS WITH LITTLE REMAINING IN THE MIDDLE AND ALL OF IT SAGGING.
NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT SPENDING FOUR CONSECUTIVELY ENERVATING NIGHTS COWLED AS THE BAT, BUT HE ALSO ENDURED THREE STRAIGHT DAYS IN WHICH, FOR ONE PICAYUNE REASON OR ANOTHER, BRUCE WAYNE HAS HAD TO SHOW HIS BRIGHT-EYED FACE WITH NO YAWNS OR NOD-OUTS ALLOWED.
AND NOW--
HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT I'M STILL FACED WITH A NUMBER OF DRUDGE-CHORES WHICH MUST BE ATTENDED...
PILLOW, I APOLOGIZE ... BUT DON'T GO ANYWHERE.
I'M COMING... I PROMISE.
A LIKELY STORY.

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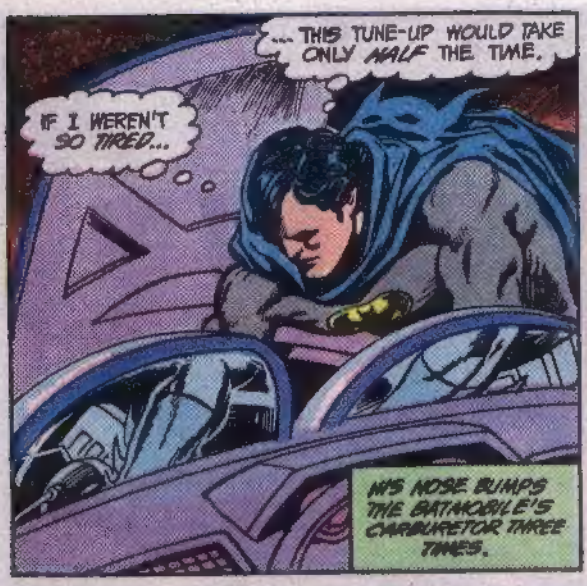
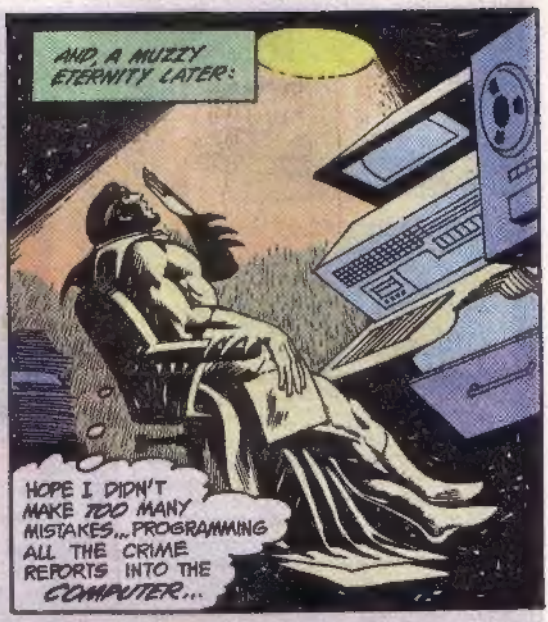
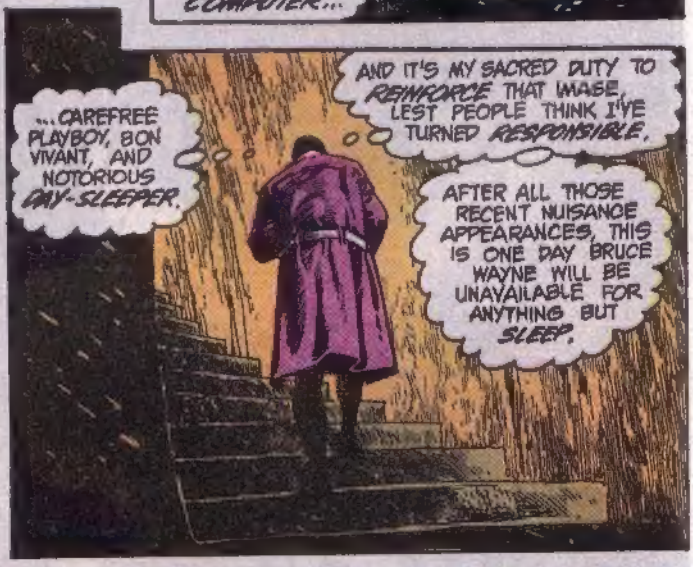
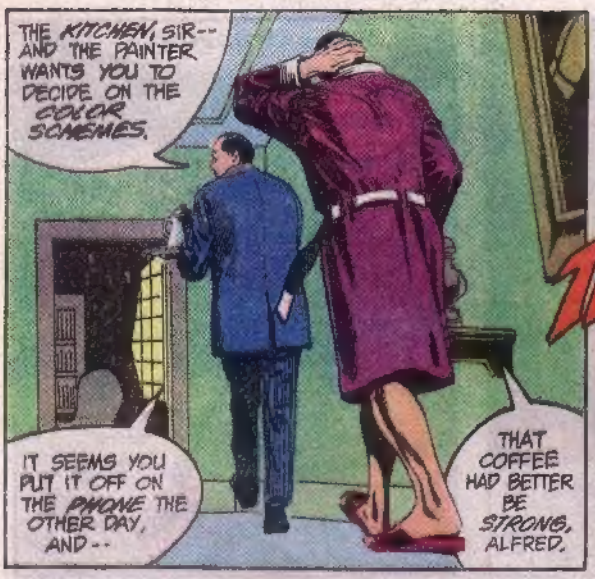

... THIS TUNE-UP WOULD TAKE ONLY HALF THE TIME.
IF I WEREN'T SO TIRED...
HIS NOSE BUMPS THE BATMOBILE'S CARBURETOR THREE TIMES.

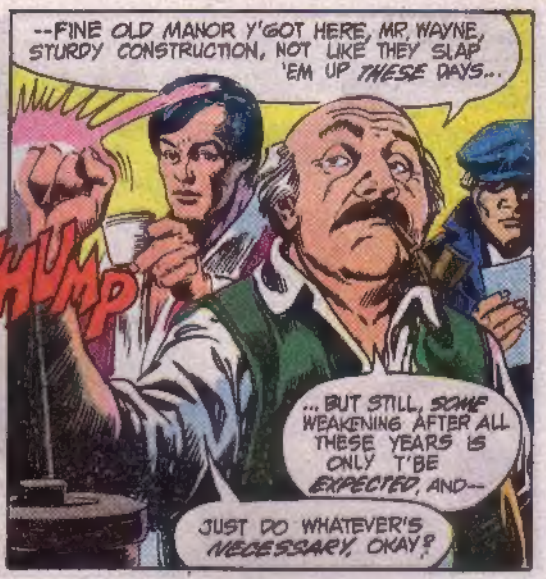

AND, A MUZZY ETERNITY LATER:
HOPE I DIDN'T MAKE TOO MANY MISTAKES... PROGRAMMING ALL THE CRIME REPORTS INTO THE COMPUTER...

... BUT WHO CARES, WHEN IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR MY REWARD...?
THE BLESSED RELIEF OF BRUCE WAYNE...

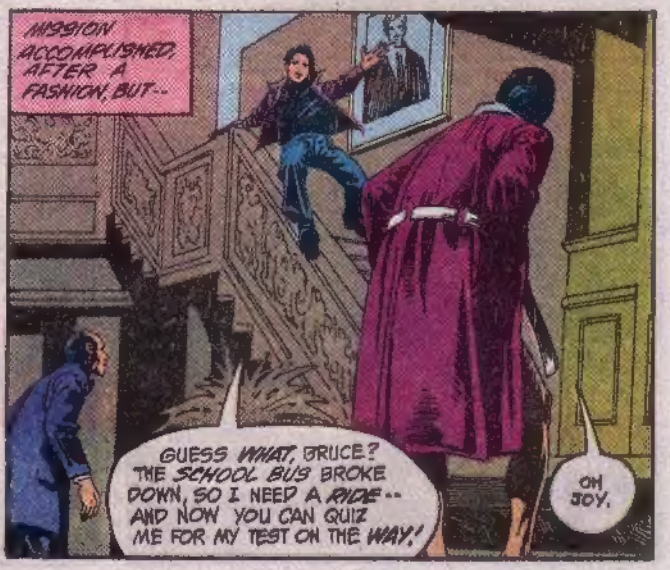

... CAREFREE PLAYBOY, BON VIVANT, AND NOTORIOUS DAY-SLEEPER.
AND IT'S MY SACRED DUTY TO REINFORCE THAT IMAGE, LEST PEOPLE THINK I'VE TURNED RESPONSIBLE.
AFTER ALL THOSE RECENT NUISANCE APPEARANCES, THIS IS ONE DAY BRUCE WAYNE WILL BE UNAVAILABLE FOR ANYTHING BUT SLEEP.

GOOD MORNING, SIR! THE PAINTING AND REPAIR CONTRACTORS HAVE ARRIVED EARLY TO TENDER THEIR ESTIMATES.
AW, NO. ALFRED -- IT'S ALREADY THREE HOURS PAST DAWN-- PAST MY BEDTIME.
THEN PERHAPS THEY'RE NOT SO EARLY, SIR...
... BUT THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS HERE, AND AWAITING YOU.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... LEAD ME TO THE HAGGLING.
2


THE KITCHEN, SIR-- AND THE PAINTER WANTS YOU TO DECIDE ON THE COLOR SCHEMES.
IT SEEMS YOU PUT IT OFF ON THE PHONE THE OTHER DAY, AND--
THAT COFFEE HAD BETTER BE STRONG, ALFRED.

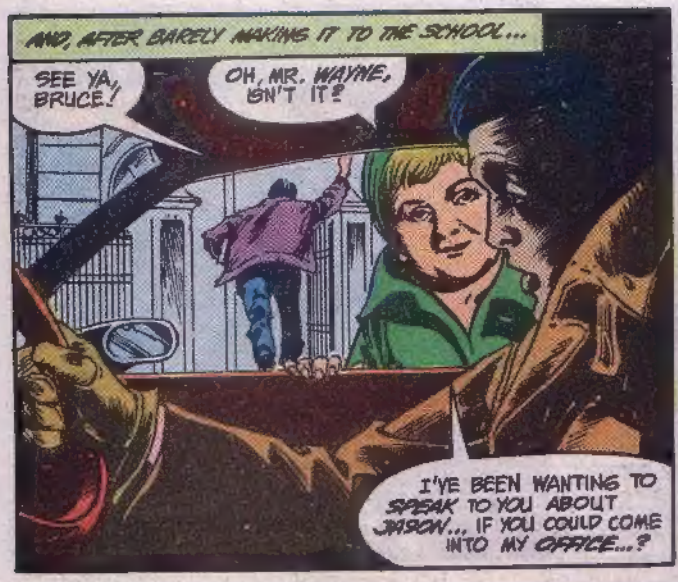

--FINE OLD MANOR Y'GOT HERE, MR. WAYNE, STURDY CONSTRUCTION, NOT LIKE THEY SLAP 'EM UP THESE DAYS...
THUMP
... BUT STILL, SOME WEAKENING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS IS ONLY T'BE EXPECTED, AND--
JUST DO WHATEVER'S NECESSARY, OKAY?

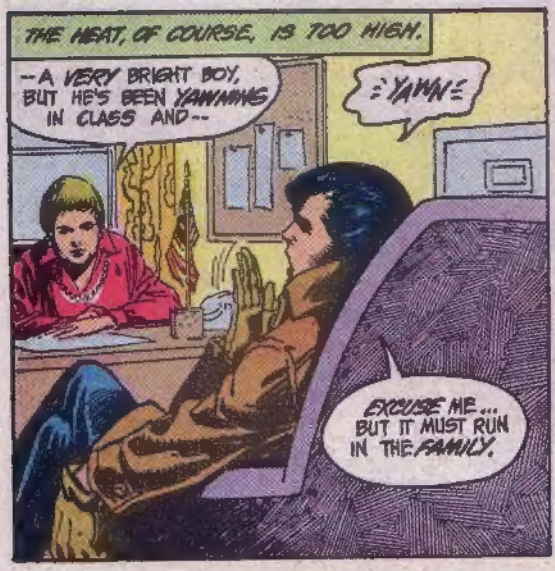
NOW, ON THE COLOR, YOU GOT YOUR BASIC OFF-WHITE AND THEN YOU GOT YOUR BASIC EGGSHELL WHITE AND HERE'S YOUR BASIC EMORY WHITE AND THEN THERE'S YOUR--
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL JUST TAKE YOUR BASIC FLIP-THE-COIN WHITE.

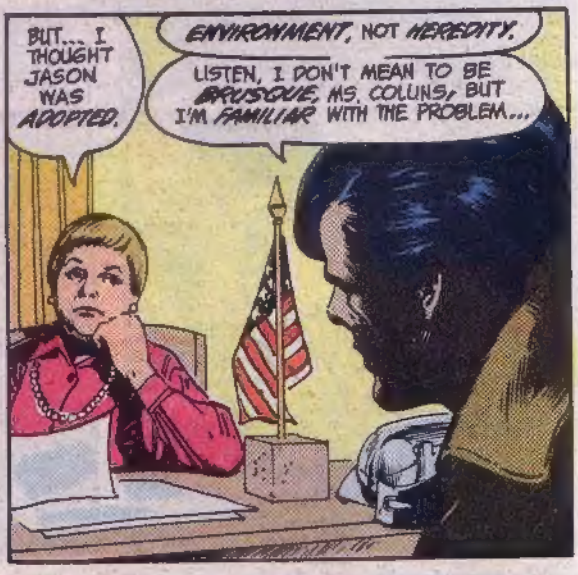

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, AFTER A FASHION, BUT--
GUESS WHAT, BRUCE? THE SCHOOL BUS BROKE DOWN, SO I NEED A RIDE-- AND NOW YOU CAN QUIZ ME FOR MY TEST ON THE WAY!
OH JOY.

GEE, BRUCE, YOU LOOK A LITTLE GRAY AROUND THE GILLS.
I'D BE GLAD TO MOTOR THE LAD TO SCHOOL, SIR...
...IF THE PAINTERS AND REPAIRMEN DIDN'T REQUIRE SUPERVISION AND--

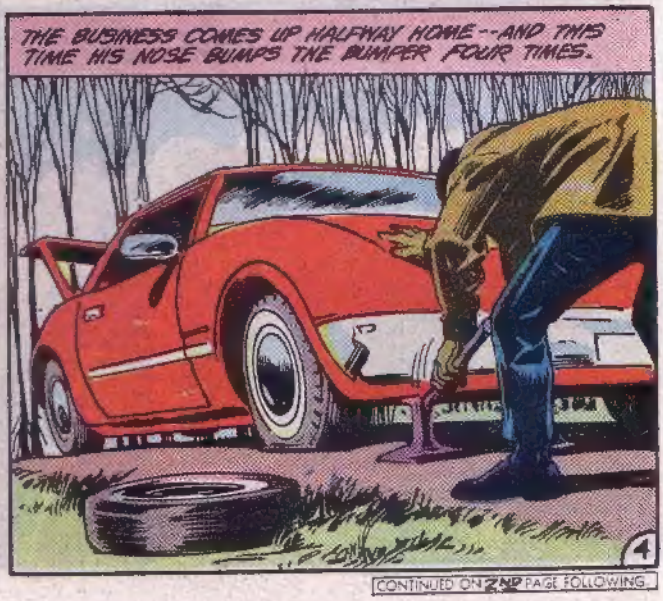
ENOUGH--GET YOUR BOOKS, JASON.
LIKE LIGHTNING, ACE!
3


AND, AFTER BARELY MAKING IT TO THE SCHOOL...
SEE YA, BRUCE!
OH, MR. WAYNE, ISN'T IT?
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT JASON... IF YOU COULD COME INTO MY OFFICE...?


THE HEAT, OF COURSE, IS TOO HIGH.
--A VERY BRIGHT BOY, BUT HE'S BEEN YAWNING IN CLASS AND--
=YAWN=
EXCUSE ME... BUT IT MUST RUN IN THE FAMILY.


BUT... I THOUGHT JASON WAS ADOPTED.
ENVIRONMENT, NOT HEREDITY.
LISTEN, I DON'T MEAN TO BE BROUSQUE, MS. COLLINS, BUT I'M FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEM...

REST ASSURED I'LL SEE THAT JASON GETS MORE SLEEP -- BUT NOW IF I MAY BE EXCUSED, I'M REMINDED OF SOME BUSINESS I MUST ATTEND TO.
HMP.



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BUT FINALLY--
YES, INDEED, MR. WAYNE, VERY STURDY CONSTRUCTION-- YOU CAN REST EASY IN A HOUSE LIKE THIS.
IS THAT A PROMISE?
MR. LUCIUS FOX WAITING TO SEE YOU, SIR.
HUH?
PROBLEMS DOWN AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION, BRUCE.
BUT I'VE DIVORCED MYSELF FROM DAILY OPERATION-- TURNED THE ENTIRE PROCESS OVER TO YOU, LUCIUS.
IT'S STILL YOUR MONEY--AND BELIEVE ME, IF THESE FISCAL MATTERS WEREN'T EXTREMELY IMPORTANT--
ALL RIGHT, LUCIUS--LET'S HAMMER IT OUT IN THE STUDY.
COFFEE, GENTLEMEN?
FOR ME, ALFRED, EITHER IT'S SUGARED WITH DYNAMITE OR--
AND-- NOT SURE WHAT WE SETTLED, LUCIUS-- BUT IF YOU'RE HAPPY... GOOD NIGHT.
IT'S NOON, SIR-- MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SOME LUNCH WHILE YOU'RE STILL UP.
OOPS.
ON SECOND THOUGHT--
-- PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU SIMPLY WOKE UP AND WENT TO BED.
5

BED... YES... BUT ONLY AFTER BREAKING THE ALARM CLOCK SO IT WON'T.
RRRNG
HELLO, FATHER, JUST DROPPED BY ON MY LUNCH HOUR TO SEE HOW YOU'RE--
OH, BRUCE -- I'M GLAD I CAUGHT YOU...
NNNH ?
JULIA...?
YES, JULIA ?
WHATEVER IS IT ?
PICTURE NEWS ASSIGNED ME TO COVER THE ITZHAK PERLMAN CONCERT TOMORROW NIGHT AND THEY GAVE ME TWO TICKETS.
I WAS JUST WONDERING... IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY...
UM... ARE YOU ASKING ME FOR A DATE, JULIA ?
WELL... YES, I GUESS I AM.
UH-HUH.
AND HOW DOES YOUR BOSS FEEL ABOUT THIS ?
YOU MEAN VICKI ? SHE'S THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE TWO TICKETS...
OF COURSE, IF YOU AND SHE HAVE A SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING--
WE, AH... WHAT WE HAVE IS...
OH, HELL, IT'S TOO DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN-- I ACCEPT.
WONDERFUL!
6

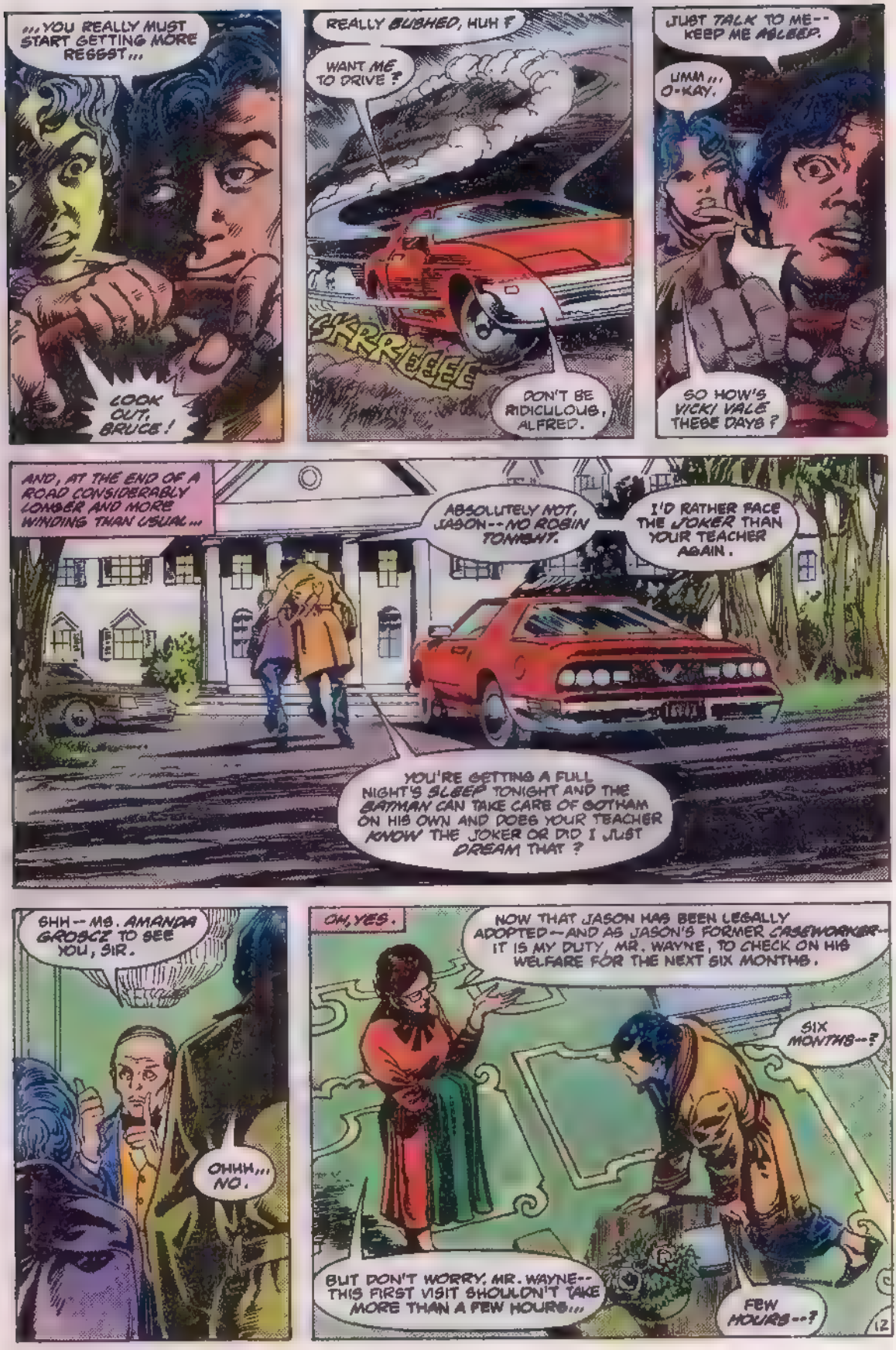
HE STAGGERS TO THE BEDROOM DOOR.
YES... WONDERFUL...
OH, BRUCE--?
Y-YES, JULIA?
PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN?
OH, NO... IT CAN'T BE SEVEN ALREADY...
WHAT?
UM... YES, SEVEN WILL BE... WONDERFUL.
AND, AT LONG LAST:
WOHNN-DER-FU--
BRIING
AHRRRGH!!
BRUCE? THIS IS VICKI -- AND I INSIST ON SEEING YOU, BRUCE.
UM... SURE, VICKI... HOW ABOUT TOMORROW NIGHT? I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING PLANNED AND WE COULD--
NOW, BRUCE.
7

N-N-NOW? YOU M-MEAN--
RIGHT NOW. I REALIZE THE SCHEDULE OF AN IDLE PLAYBOY IS FULL, BUT I'M TIRED OF BEING PUT OFF BY YOU.
I'M GOING TO DRIVE OVER RIGHT NOW AND YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD LONG TALK, AND IF YOU AGREE TO DISCUSS OUR FUTURE, I PROMISE NOT TO BRING UP THE PAST...
PAST WHAT? PAST ONE ALREADY--?
BRUCE! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
HUH? VICKI, IS THAT YOU? UH, VICKI... LISTEN... COULD YOU GIVE ME AN HOUR? JUST ONE HOUR?
I'M COMING, BRUCE. :KLIK:
THANKS, VICKI... 'PRECIATE IT...
AN HOUR... SURE WILL... FEEL GOOD...
KRAKT
HUH--?!
WHUZZAT?!
8

LEAK IN THE ATTIC'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.
WEAKENED YOUR BEDROOM CEILING.
HOPE I DIDN'T, UH, DISTURB YA TOO MUCH.
GUESS I BETTER COME DOWN AND CLEAN THAT UP, HUH?
WHY NOT? JASON'S BED ISN'T THAT HARD.
DIDN'T SAY IT WAS, MISTER.
NICE DAY, MR. WAYNE, YOU ALWAYS GO BACK TO BED FOR A NAP LIKE THAT?
ONLY WHEN IT'S A NICE DAY.
PLUR CH
THIS... PAINT?
IT'S THE COLOR YOU PICKED, DON'TCHA REMEMBER?
FOOLISH ME — DOESN'T LOOK LIKE FLIP-THE-COIN WHITE, BUT I'D BETTER TAKE A BATH JUST THE SAME.
JULIA WILL BE HERE IN AN HOUR.
SHE'S MY BUTLER'S DAUGHTER'S BOSS, THE INVESTIGATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER -- TRACKING ME DOWN FOR A TALK.
DO TELL. AT LEAST SHE WON'T HAVE TROUBLE FOLLOWING THE TRAIL.
9

MASTER BRUCE? MS. VICKI VALE HAS JUST PULLED INTO THE DRIVEWAY.
ZZZ... HUH?
OH--THEN I MUST THANK HER FOR SAVING ME FROM DROWNING.
AND YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD OF HER, JASON.
???
THAT'S RIGHT, BRUCE-- BILL MODELL HAS PROPOSED MARRIAGE
AND IF YOU DON'T MAKE UP YOUR MIND SOON...
M-HM, VERY NICE, VICKI.
YOU DON'T CONSIDER BILL ANY THREAT TO YOU?
PISTOLS OR SABERS, BUT NOT AT DAWN, PLEASE.
OR PERHAPS YOU JUST DON'T CARE.
PERHAPS YOU'D WELCOME THE CHANCE TO SAMPLE OTHER WARES? PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TRY OUT SOMEONE LIKE JULIA, FOR EXAMPLE?
UH, AS A MATTER OF FACT...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, BRUCE, IF YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO SEE ME TOMORROW NIGHT--
--I THINK YOU AND I SHOULD TAKE A VACATION FROM EACH OTHER.
A PERMANENT VACATION.
OH, COME NOW, VICKI-- YOU CAN'T MARRY BILL MODELL...
10
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

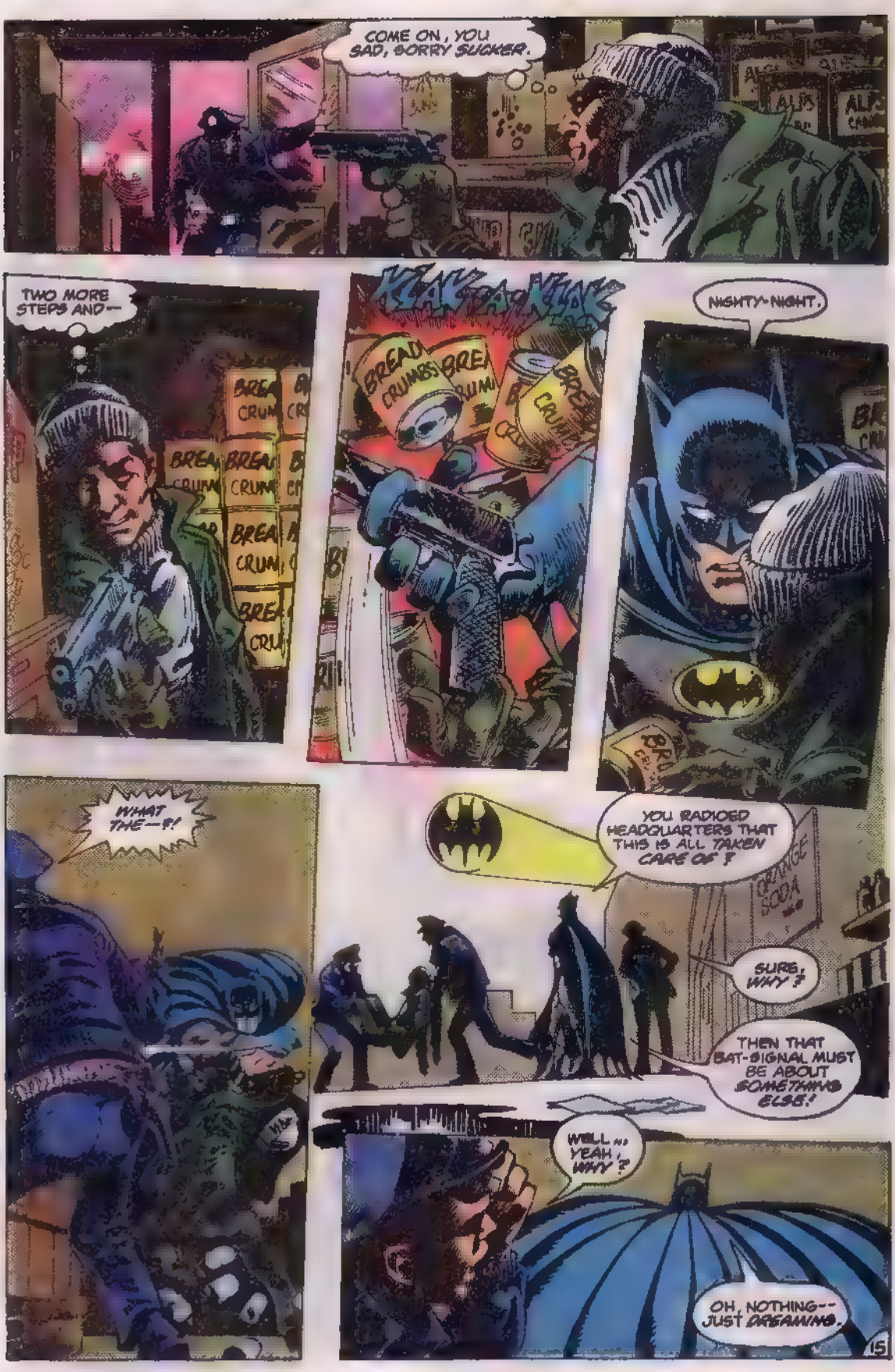
YOU'VE ONLY KNOWN HIM--
I DIDN'T SAY I'D MARRY BILL-- ALTHOUGH WHETHER I DO OR NOT IS HARDLY YOUR BUSINESS.
ALL I SAID WAS...
EITHER PICK ME UP TOMORROW NIGHT AT SEVEN, BRUCE, OR WE'RE THROUGH!
OH, VICKI...!
BUT IN THE END, EXHAUSTION AND THE HARSH SUN TEAM UP AGAINST HIM...
SO HE SIMPLY SHUTS THE DOOR AND STUMBLES FOR THE STAIRS... AND FOR SLEEP, IF NOT IN HIS OWN BED, THEN AT LEAST IN--
JASON, SIR--IT'S TIME TO PICK HIM UP FROM SCHOOL.
BUT IF YOU'D RATHER I--
NO, NO, ALFRED... I'LL LET YOU PLAY CHICKEN LITTLE WITH HIS FOOT IN THE PAINT.
UH, SIR... HADN'T YOU BETTER DRESS FIRST?
"WHAT ON EARTH FOR? THIS BATHROBE IS A PIERRE CARDIN ORIGINAL."
JASON, THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST [YAWN] DISCUSS WITH YOU...
YEAH? FIRE AWAY, BRUCE.
AT WHAT? OH, YES, OUR DISCUSSION... VERY WELL, LET'S SEE... WHEN YOU... NO, IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE PLAYING THE ROLE OF ROBIN...
11


...YOU REALLY MUST START GETTING MORE REGGST...
LOOK OUT, BRUCE!
REALLY BUSHED, HUH?
WANT ME TO DRIVE?
SKRRGGGE
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, ALFRED.
JUST TALK TO ME--KEEP ME AGLEEP.
UMM... O-KAY.
SO HOW'S VICKI VALE THESE DAYS?
AND, AT THE END OF A ROAD CONSIDERABLY LONGER AND MORE WINDING THAN USUAL...
ABSOLUTELY NOT, JASON--NO ROBIN TONIGHT.
I'D RATHER FACE THE JOKER THAN YOUR TEACHER AGAIN.
YOU'RE GETTING A FULL NIGHT'S SLEEP TONIGHT AND THE BATMAN CAN TAKE CARE OF GOTHAM ON HIS OWN AND DOES YOUR TEACHER KNOW THE JOKER OR DID I JUST DREAM THAT?
SHH--MS. AMANDA GROSCZ TO SEE YOU, SIR.
OHHH... NO.
OH, YES.
NOW THAT JASON HAS BEEN LEGALLY ADOPTED--AND AS JASON'S FORMER CASEWORKER--IT IS MY DUTY, MR. WAYNE, TO CHECK ON HIS WELFARE FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.
SIX MONTHS--?
BUT DON'T WORRY, MR. WAYNE--THIS FIRST VISIT SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN A FEW HOURS...
FEW HOURS--?
12

FIVE HOURS LATER:
OH, MY, IT'S ALREADY DARK, ISN'T IT? BUT IT WAS SO NICE TO ENGAGE IN A LEISURELY CHAT ABOUT JASON.
UH-HUH.
YOU KNOW, MR. WAYNE, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING SO, YOU LOOK RATHER TIRED.
I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY GETTING MORE REST.
AT LEAST YOU'RE ALREADY DRESSED FOR IT.
MAYBE GOTHAM CAN GET THROUGH ONE NIGHT WITHOUT ROBIN OR BATMAN...
OH, DEAR— LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE AGAIN.
BUT IT CERTAINLY IS REASSURING TO KNOW THE BATMAN'S ALWAYS THERE TO HANDLE IT.
WELL, GOOD NIGHT.
I DOUBT IT.
ON THE NEWS, SIR...
...LIVE ON THE SCENE AT AN ALL-NIGHT CONVENIENCE STORE AT WILSHAM AND COPELAND...
...WHERE POLICE HAVE A WOULD-BE ARMED ROBBER TRAPPED INSIDE...
PERHAPS THE BATMAN SHOULD TAKE A HAND, SIR, BEFORE--
EH?
SIR--?
13

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

FINALLY, AND ONLY IN THE BATCAVE, DOES ALL TRACE OF FATIGUE LEAVE HIM...
GOOD THING I TOOK THE TIME TO REPAIR THE BATMOBILE THIS MORNING...
...AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT THIS COSTUME, BUT IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO GIVE ME NEW STRENGTH AND DRIVE.
EITHER THAT, OR I'VE SIMPLY PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN AND GOTTEN MY SECOND WIND.
MAKE THAT MY NINTH WIND.
WONDER HOW LONG IT'LL LAST...
VRROOOMMM
WILSHAM AND COPELAND:
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA--EDDIE TRYING TO SNEAK IN THERE LIKE THAT...
GROCERIES
ALL NITE
ORANGE
GOTHAM POLICE
YEAH--EITHER HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOIN' OR HE'S BEEN WATCHIN' HILL STREET BLUES TOO MUCH...

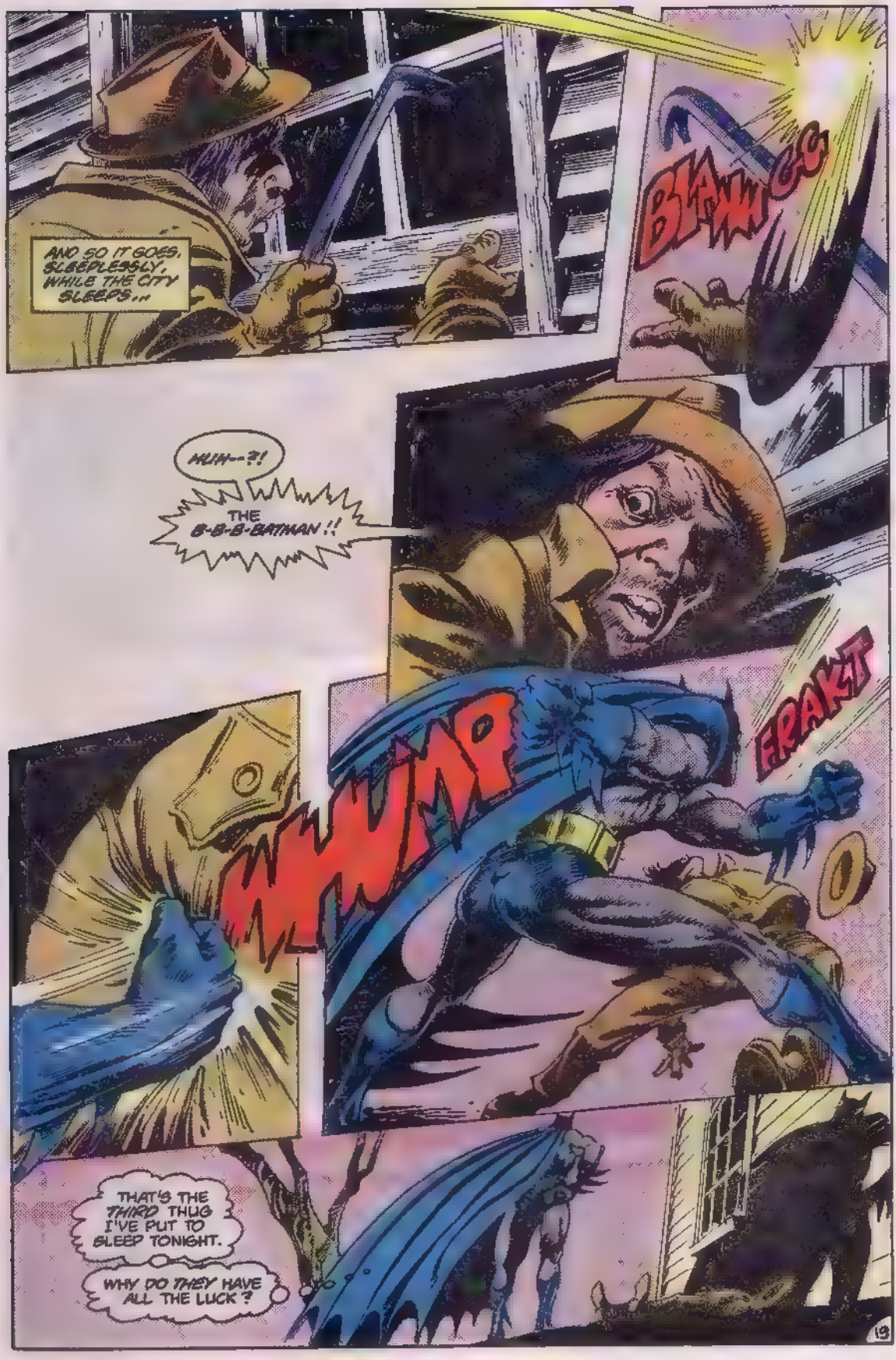

COME ON, YOU SAD, SORRY SUCKER.
TWO MORE STEPS AND--
KLAK-A-KLAK
BREAD CRUMBS
NIGHTY-NIGHT.
WHAT THE--?!
YOU RADIOED HEADQUARTERS THAT THIS IS ALL TAKEN CARE OF?
SURE, WHY?
THEN THAT BAT-SIGNAL MUST BE ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE!
WELL, UH, YEAH, WHY?
OH, NOTHING-- JUST DREAMING.

POLICE HQ:
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP WITH THAT CONVENIENCE STORE HOLDUP, BATMAN, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I SIGNALED YOU ABOUT.
SOMEHOW, GORDON, I GOT THAT FEELING.
FOR THE PAST EIGHT NIGHTS A RAPIST HAS STRUCK IN THE PARK, EVEN THOUGH WE'VE HAD IT SMOTHERED WITH STAKEOUT TEAMS FOR THE PAST SIX NIGHTS.
YEAH--EIGHT WOMEN VICTIMIZED, SIX OF 'EM RIGHT UNDER THE NOSES OF OUR UNDERCOVER BOYS.
WE JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW THIS GUY DOES IT, BATMAN.
AND TONIGHT'S THE NINTH NIGHT.
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
AND CONGRATULATIONS, BULLOCK--YOU HAVEN'T KNOCKED OVER A THING IN SIX WHOLE MINUTES.
THE PARK:
KLIK KLIK
I JUST SCARED ANOTHER ONE, FRANK.
LET HER GO--CAN'T BE YELLIN' OUT WE'RE UNDERCOVER COPS EVERY TIME OR WE'LL NEVER CATCH THIS GUY.
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
BESIDES, MAYBE YOU'LL SCARE HER RIGHT OUTTA THE PARK.
"I DON'T KNOW WHY ANY WOMAN WOULD COME IN HERE AFTER WHAT'S HAPPENED THE LAST WEEK...
"THEY SHOULD ALL BE HOME IN BED--SLEEPING."
THRESH
16

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

WH--?
EASY, MISS...
...IT'S ONLY ME.
THE BATMAN?!
THE DEEP VOICE IS THE FIRST HINT, GIVING THE BATMAN JUST ENOUGH EDGE--
--TO SEE THE PROOF OF THE GUN AND MAN.
YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME, YOU LOUSY--
BAM
THAT'S HOW HE DOES IT EVERY NIGHT-- BY DRESSING UP LIKE A VICTIM--
--SOMEONE NEITHER I NOR THE UNDERCOVER COPS WOULD EVER SUSPECT!

THUD
HWAKWAKWAK
SMASH
LIKE A BAD DREAM...
...BUT AT LEAST THE WOMEN OF THIS CITY CAN SLEEP EASIER NOW.


AND SO IT GOES, SLEEPLESSLY, WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS...
BLAM!!
HUH--?!
THE B-B-B-BATMAN!!
WHUMP
FRAKT
THAT'S THE THIRD THUG I'VE PUT TO SLEEP TONIGHT.
WHY DO THEY HAVE ALL THE LUCK?
13

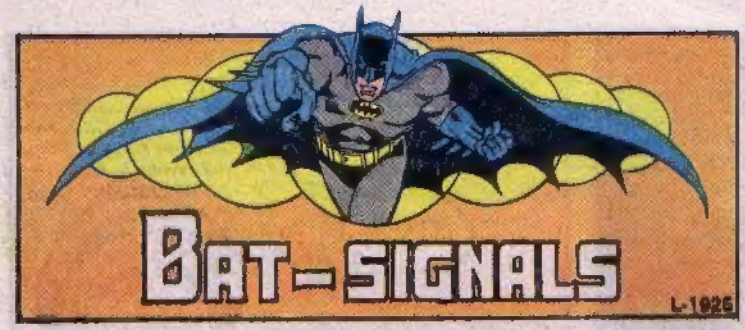
GOT A MATCH?
OF COURSE YOU DO...
SPLOSH
LOSH
KLUNG
...BUT, FORTUNATELY, I DON'T SMOKE.
HWOK
DREAMLAND, WHY AM I SO GOOD TO YOU... WHEN YOU'VE TURNED SUCH A COLD SHOULDER ON ME?
20

AND WHILE THE PERSONA OF BRUCE WAYNE SLUMBERS DEEP WITHIN THE PSYCHE OF HIS TIRELESS ALTER-EGO--
--THE BATMAN GOES ON A RAMPAGE, PREYING ON NIGHT'S PREDATORS THEMSELVES--
--FILLING THE DARKNESS WITH HIS OWN BRAND OF RELENTLESS TERROR AND INEVITABLE JUSTICE.
AND THE NIGHTCRAWLERS OF GOTHAM, THIS NIGHT, SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN BED.
THEN, COMES THE DAWN...
AT LAST--AND NOT FORTY WINKS TOO SOON.
MAYBE NOW I CAN FINALLY--
EH--?
TRULY, THIS IS ONE CITY WHICH NEVER SLEEPS...

JUST PLAY IT REAL RELAXED, MISTER ...
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, WEASEL!
IT'S BEEN A LONG NIGHT AND I AIN'T SCORED YET.
SHWUMP
DON'T YOU EVER SLEEP, BATMAN?
DON'T YOU AND I BOTH WISH.
SWOKK
FWHUMPT
22

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE HERE?
A MUGGER, OFFICER, BUT THE BATMAN HERE ALREADY TOOK CARE OF--
HEY!
HE WAS HERE JUST A MINUTE AGO!
WHERE IS HE--?
NOT QUITE IN THE TREETOP, BUT DEFINITELY WHERE THE WIND BLOWS...
UNNOTICED.
YOU KNOW, FRIEND, I THINK I'LL JUST SLEEP RIGHT HERE FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS STRAIGHT... AND WHEN I WAKE UP... I'LL GO HOME TO BED...
YESSS... I THINK THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'LL DO... AND WHY NOT?
BRUCE WAYNE... ISN'T DOING ANYTHING... TOMORROW NIGHT... ANYWAY...
-ZZZZZ-
NEXT ISSUE: CALENDAR MAN!



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Paul Levitz, Vice Pres.-Operations
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Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

Dear Doug, Don, and Len,

The cover of #379 ("Bedtime Stories") looked corny but the interior kept up the tenseness of the BATMAN line and proved to be a nice swan song for Don Newton as the book's artist. I've become so used to him as the artist for Batman (aside from Jim Aparo) that I'll be going through six months' culture shock before I realize that he's really gone and that I'll have to get used to some stranger's version of him, like it or not. I don't know about Rick Hoberg, even not seeing his work yet. My choices would have been Irv Novick or Steve Lightle (who did a swell job on a BATMAN AND THE OUTSIDERS guest shot). Whoever takes Newton's place had better know how to draw shadows. Newton was the unchallenged master of the dark panel; with only a small twinkle illuminating his absolute greatness.

Bringing back the original Mad Hatter has proven to be a sound move. But I'm starting to lose interest in Jason Todd—he talks too intelligently for a twelve-year-old; and his personality seems flat—like the other characters were playing checkers of the plot on him, but paying attention to the other pieces and not the board.

As for future stuff, I am cheerfully reminded that we have yet to see the Moench versions of Catwoman, Ra's Al Ghul, Professor Hugo Strange, Maxie Zeus, Killer Moth (a return to the Moth of 1951), and Two-Face. Me, I'm anxiously waiting.

Charles D. Brown
39 Stockton Street
Brentwood, NY 11717

We all miss Don already, both here in these pages and in life. Many of the letters in this somewhat shorter column represent the readers' reaction to Don's untimely passing.

As for artist-in-residence here, change is once again in the wind. Gene Colan has been back for a one-shot appearance and there will be some other artists contributing their version of the Caped Crusader. Unfortunately for you, Charles,' Steve Lightle is too busy with the deluxe format LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES to draw Batman.

On the subject of returning villains, the leading candidates from the mail received are Two-Face and Ras Al Ghul. In checking with Doug, he reports that he intends to do both villains somewhere down the line but he carefully avoided telling when—stick with us and be surprised!

•••••

Dear Bat-Editor,

Doug Moench continues to elaborately weave his intricate web of emotions, deceit, actions, and questions in the Batman's life and the lives of those around him. In Nocturna's case, it would appear to be not so much a flimsy web, but an iron snare, holding the Batman fast and only waiting for the owner to pull him in. The trouble is that Batman doesn't know he's caught yet, or at least he won't admit it. And, paradoxically, that just might save him.

I disagree that there is much danger of anyone associating the Bruce/Jason split with the Batman/Robin split. Part of the rationale behind secret identities is that in a vast city, no one would ever even think of relating two apparently separated events. Those who know Wayne would never even think of associating him in their minds with Batman and vice versa.

Just before I bought my copy of #379, I was saddened to learn of the death of artist Don Newton. It is ironic that #379 was to be his last BATMAN issue in any event. Naturally, I did not know Mr. Newton (in fact, I never even saw a picture of him until the one published with his obituary). I knew him only through his art. I have always enjoyed his solid craftsmanship and steady dependability, both in keeping to a schedule and in doing work that maintained a consistent level of quality. Although I am sure that his death is a great personal loss to those who knew him, I, of course, cannot speak of any loss in a personal sense. I can only say that I will genuinely miss his artwork. On the face of it, this may seem a little cold, but one can miss another only insofar as one knew that other. That so many like me knew the work but not the man should be cause for celebration in that his talent enabled him to influence many people and bring a measure of joy to their lives.

T. M. Maple
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ontario M9L 2R9
Canada

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Dear Mr. Wein,

I wish to congratulate you and your creative team on BATMAN #379. The writing and artwork were just great. I stopped reading this comic over a year ago but I now realize I was very foolish. This is the best comic featuring one main character.

This attraction between Batman and Nocturna is dangerously beautiful and I would like to see you continue this relationship. I think it's the greatest romance in comics today. Also, please keep Jason in her custody and get rid of that wimp, Vicki Vale. We all know a relationship between a hero and villainess can work so we don't need Vicki.

Jody Hamby
Route 1 Box 67
Robbins, TN 37852

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Dear Len and Bob,

Before I get on with the great story from BATMAN #379, I must say something about Don Newton's death. I had heard about it in early September but decided to wait for the next issue of BATMAN to write to you about it. Don Newton is, was, and always shall be the consummate Batman artist. His Batman looked like an updated version of the Batman from the 1940s ... shadowy, grim, well-defined. These last few issues were Newton at his best! What a shame he decided to leave BATMAN or we would've had at least one or two more issues of his great work. We only saw most of his work in BATMAN, DETECTIVE, and WORLD'S FINEST (the *Shazam!* series) regularly with spot appearances in DC COMICS PRESENTS, BRAVE AND BOLD, and VIGILANTE. He and his work will be sorely missed. And Don, if you're watching, don't worry, Batman will be in capable hands. And now, a moment of silence ...

The Batman is amazing, isn't he? Fighting against foes with Superman's strength and he still prevails. Robin didn't do too badly this issue either. And let's give a big round of applause and congratulations from Batman and Robin to ... Nocturna! DC's newest heroine—I think—she sure did well against the Mad Hatter, although I would have preferred that she punched him instead of kicked him. She could become a great asset to the team, since she can hold her own with the best of them. When she first appeared she defeated Batman easily. Now look at how many times she pulled his fat out of the fire. And on top of everything else, ' she's Robin's mother!

Delmo Waters Jr.
1299 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10452

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Dear Sirs,

I heard about Mr. Newton's untimely death, I'm sorry. The man was extraordinarily talented and it's too bad he couldn't receive the mass adulation he deserved. Not the best of eulogies, but I'm sure more talented letterhacks will write some beautiful thoughts.

As for the Batman, I'm getting the strong feeling Doug Moench has wanted to get his hands on this title for a long time and now that he's got it, he's going to play out all his darkest fantasies. All the "Bat-villains" from the 1980s, most of them enacted on that hideous TV show, are making comebacks and being presented all very well. I wonder if he'll be able to resist the temptation to create a new King Tut or Marsha, Queen of Diamonds. Nocturna's sort of the nightmare version of Marsha. If he does, I'll be behind him all the way mainly to see just what he comes up with.

Olivia Ortega's obnoxious treatment of Julia didn't seem to ring true somehow. Oh, I'm sure Olivia is snobbish and egotistical to hold those views and to treat Julia in such a way, but I have trouble believing she'd stop to deliver a soliloquy on the spot instead of just snubbing her. It'd be interesting to see if Ms. Ortega bothered to read Julia's story and, if so, what she thought of it.

We don't seem to be privy to the knowledge of whether the Night-Slayer made love to poor, pathetic Tina, and as a result, we don't know how disgusted by him we should be. He's obviously disgusted by her and stringing her along until he's well enough to escape, but I doubt if she's in any real danger. He doesn't have to kill her, he'll probably just slip out into the night, leaving her alone and confused. His lying flattery, the sort of silver-tongued poetry that would melt Tina's heart, makes even him even more reprehensible, and I hope that someone realizes the girl's true worth—even if it would be more realistic if she were just left alone again in her cabin with only her guide dog to tell her stories to.

I'm not quite sure if I buy Mad Hatter's biofeedback computerized hat-sleeves, but it's a wonderfully weird idea, eerie and bizarre, perfect for the world of The Batman. The Mad Hatter's not the kind of villain who can appear more than once every other year without being worn out, but he's fun. I especially like his genteel madness, not quite as flamboyant as the raving lunatics that populate most comics, but skillfully underplayed. I wonder what he'll do in prison without his little pet monkey to tell his stories to.

Michael Pickens
Greentree Apartments
784 Blacksnake Road Apt. D-4
Utica, OH 43080

The villains Doug has been using in the comic are either ones from long ago, such as Mr. Freeze and the Mad Hatter, or original creations, such as Night-Slayer. The television series happened to populate the episodes with villains drawn from the rich history of the comic. It's very unlikely any of the made-for-TV villains, will ever show up in the comics. Also, hopefully, you have noticed that Doug has shown us the lighter side of Batman in a few recent tales both here and in DETECTIVE.

*****

Dear Everyone,

I am extremely sorry to hear of the death of Don Newton. Don's been one of the finest artists in the field, and DC will be hard put to find a comparable replacement on his books. It's tragic how it happened, in a way that could have been avoided, but what can we do? All I can think to do is shed a tear and set aside a BATMAN in remembrance. Rest easy, Don.

David Alan Wright
39 Howard Street
New Britain, CT 06051

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Dear Editor,

This is not one of my "spur-of-the-moment," whimsical letters, in which I share with you a half-baked suggestion or a fannish request. No, this is a letter of condolence.

Yesterday I learned of Don Newton's death.

Batman is one of my all-time favorite comics heroes. And not since Adams or Rogers has anyone captured the mood and character of the Dark Knight like Don. And as far as I know, he is the only one to "humanize" Captain Marvel. And I'm sure he did wonders for INFINITY, INC.

I never knew the man. But I'm going to miss him.

David R. Wood
6641 East Garwood Circle
Knoxville, TN 37918

For those who may have missed it, Don drew several pages for INFINITY #12 and all of issue #13 before he passed away. May we suggest you look for them at your local comics shops to see that David is right and Don did do wonders—however briefly.

*****

Dear Doug and Company,

I want to offer my sympathies to DC and the family of Don Newton. I will miss his version of Batman; I followed Don's art in BATMAN, NEW GODS, *Shazam!*, VIGILANTE, and many other places. I was looking forward to his INFINITY, INC. Usually when I hear about other comics professionals dying, it doesn't mean much to me. But when I read of Don passing away, it was like losing a friend. Thank you for letting me express these sympathies.

Jeff Zuerloff
2389 27th Street
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

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This month in CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, the Monitor reveals the dire situation Earth is faced with and dispatches the unlikely combination of heroes and villains throughout time. Batman and the Joker also turn up, as does our beloved caveman, Anthro.

Over in WHO'S WHO #3, coming next week, we finish the Bs, going from THE OUTSIDERS' Black Lightning to Byth. This one includes Blue Devil and Blue Beetle with art by the likes of Paris Cullins and Joe Kubert! Don't buy one without the other or you'll get confused.

And that wraps up the mail for another month. It's been slacking off a bit and we wish everyone would let us know what you think of the work being done on this title. Remember, it's your input that helps us determine in what direction any given series would go. Besides, what else do you have to do in the dead of winter? Until next time, keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Paul Levitz, Vice President-Operations